Imago Dei
Middle School

May 14, 2015

Ms. Dayna Sandoval, Director
Pappas Kids Schoolhouse Foundation
530 E Hunt Highway #103, PMB 443
San Tan Valley, AZ 85143

Dear Dayna,

The scholars of Imago Dei Middle School, their families, the school's staff and the Board warmly thank you and the Foundation's Directors for your generous, steadfast support of Imago Dei Middle School over the years. We are incredibly grateful for your support of our mission: Breaking cycles of poverty through education.

As the first Student Tuition Organization in Maricopa County to reach out to Southern Arizona schools, you have provided invaluable leadership, and a tremendous boon to the at-risk children of Tucson, the fifth-poorest large city in the United States.

Since Imago Dei provides a quality, private-school education to the children most in need of it, our mission aligns beautifully with yours. We, like Pappas, are committed to helping at-risk children achieve their full potential: Our student population is currently 70% Latino, 20% African / African-American, and 8% Native American. Nearly 50% of our students are English Language Learners and 100% qualify for Free or Reduced School Lunches. Most of our students come to us well below grade level, and we provide what they need to succeed: a ten-hour school day, six-day week, and eleven-month school year; a student-teacher ratio of 10:1; tutoring and mentoring; two meals a day; all supplies and uniforms; summer camp; and access for family members to social services, as needed.

Since we receive only minor government funding (from the National School Lunch Program), your provision of scholarship funding to help defray our $15,000 annual outlay per student is incredibly helpful. Teacher salaries are, of necessity, our largest expense, which makes funding for scholarships the most valuable support we receive.

We are also deeply grateful for your thoughtfulness in providing countless other benefits for our scholars: Your recent gift of 20 Kindle Fires and an Amazon Prime account offers exciting possibilities for instruction. In addition, over the years you have provided school supplies, sweaters, and

Christmas gifts to all of our children (and their siblings!), as well as your bountiful gift of complete Thanksgiving dinners to every family. I cannot tell you how much joy your generosity to our school has created.

And together, we *are* making a difference for these children. 60% of our alumni have a private-school option for high school. As the numbers of our graduates increase, their educational progress is thrilling to watch.

We keep in touch with all our alumni, and provide them with counseling, tutoring and other assistance, as needed, through application to post-secondary school and beyond. I am delighted to report that 96% of IDMS graduates have graduated high school, passed their GED, or are on a clear track to graduate. (This is in contrast to a 66% graduation rate for young people from similar backgrounds in Pima County as a whole.)

This fall, nine of the first wave of IDMS graduates are off to four-year colleges. Not surprisingly, the most popular choice is University of Arizona, but our scholars have also been accepted by University of Oregon, University of Washington, San Diego State, Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, San Francisco Art Institute, and University of Nevada at Las Vegas. They wouldn't have access to this launch-pad to a better life if it weren't for you.

Once again, Dayna, thank you for the difference you and Pappas Kids make in the lives of our children, and for the difference they will make in the futures of their families, and our state.

With endless gratitude,

Rev. Anne Sawyer
Head of School and Co-Founder